

**ABSTRACT**

The invention relates to a method and a system for authenticating a client (110, 111, 112) for access to a virtual network (162, 163) which allows the client to access services provided by service providers (130, 131), in which the compatibility of the client with a predetermined access control protocol for access to the virtual network is determined, and, if the client is not compatible with the predetermined access control protocol, data transfer is authorised between the client and at least one subscription system (140, 142) for subscribing the client to at least one service provider, and, if the client subscribes to at least one service provider, an authentication for accessing the services of the service provider to which the client is subscribed and information which makes it possible to make the client compatible with the predetermined access control protocol are transferred to the client.